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October 1, 2013

We are ALPA, not Enron.

By Bren Fries, Delta MEC Treasurer

As the MEC treasurer, I read the DPA accusations regarding ALPA's financial accountability and I take them seriously. Rather than engaging in a long-winded refutation of their specious claims, I prefer to let the facts speak for themselves. When something is true, it doesn't require too many words.

- In 2012, your MEC determined that the savings account, YOUR MONEY, exceeded the budgetary requirements. The result? 80 percent of the account - over \$7 million - was returned to the pilots who funded it.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

- Your MEC passed a 2013 budget that is a 13 percent REDUCTION in spending compared to the 2012 budget, paving the way to build *another* surplus and *another* refund to the pilots. These savings were achieved without any reduction to the services provided to you in negotiations, safety, scheduling and other key elements that serve the Delta pilots day in and day out.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

- Your MEC approved the framework that establishes an annual dues refund program once a stable savings balance is reached in 2013. In short, every dollar that is not spent within the approved budget will go back to you. Again, it's your money, and your MEC uses it with respect.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

- In response to LEC resolutions and MEC support, flight pay loss is reported to the Delta pilots on a quarterly basis, uploaded to our website for full review. Here's the link:

http://dal.alpa.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=5693&PortalId=0&TabId=85

- Last August the MEC approved a plan to pre-post your representatives' ALPA duty during MEC regular meetings, finally decoupling their work on your behalf from trips flown. The end result of this is that more lines of time are made available, and flight pay loss is streamlined.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS.

Your MEC is committed to spending your dues dollar wisely, and our actions are the proof of it. Any unused portion will go back to you, and the time your reps and volunteers spend "on the clock" is reported to the membership in the most transparent way on a regular basis.

Oh, and one last thing...

(404) 763-4929. That's the direct line to my office in ATL. If you have a financial concern related to how the Delta MEC uses your dues, I want to hear about it. The MEC is dedicated to finding new ways to make your investment in ALPA more "blue-chip" everyday. No hollow promises here, and our countdown clock is real - count the days until your next dues refund.

Fraternally,

Bren Fries